

SAINT LOUIS BIRD CLUB BULLETIN

VOL. 14, No. 2

MARCH, 1945

HIGH COUNTRY

March is the occasion for blustery winds and early spring flowers . . . and Alfred M. Bailey's annual visit to St. Louis. On Monday, March 26, his fifth consecutive March lecture, he will present "High Country", an all-color motion film designed to portray the great region of our mountainous west between nine thousand and fourteen thousand feet. Alfred Bailey, now Director of the well known Colorado Museum of Natural History in Denver, Colorado, has established himself as one of the country's eminent naturalists and photographers. His background covers work on four continents while on museum expeditions to the Hawaiian Islands, Arctic Alaska, Siberia, Abyssinia, and the Egyptian Sudan. He has photographed and collected specimens in every state in the Union, Canada, Mexico, and the Bahamas. His avocation is the making of pictures of wildlife in natural color. "High Country" introduces you to mountain tops at twelve thousand feet in April where skiers find the rare white-tailed ptarmigan, to sage flats at nine thousand feet where the strange dance of the sage grouse is photographed along the border of a trout stream. Following Spring to high elevations, fields of wild flowers and bird and animal life are pictured. Unusual shots are those of the rare pine grosbeaks on their nests, American elk, mule deer on sage-covered slopes, and great mountain sheep rams on red granite cliffs. The film bears the Bailey trade mark insuring uniformly rich color, studied composition, and certain appeal to any audience, young or old. The lecture will be free and open to the public at Soldan High School on Monday, March 26, 8 P.M.



Alfred M. Bailey

LOYALTY NIGHT

Friday, April 27 will bring one of the nation's ranking scientists and nature photographers to our LOYALTY NIGHT audience at Soldan High School. Yes, you've guessed it. Arthur A. Allen, Ph.D., Professor of Ornithology at Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, will favor us with another visit. He brings a new lecture and color film, "Birds on the Home Front", a story of our familiar birds filmed to show their practical value as well as their attractive colors and amusing ways. In keeping with the LOYALTY NIGHT lecture of the 1943-44 season, no admission will be charged. Instead, contributions to the Education Lecture Fund will be requested to help defray the expense of the season's program. LOYALTY NIGHT is well named, we believe. It is the one occasion during the year that our many members and friends have an opportunity to show their appreciation of the past lectures and to insure next season's program. Dr. Allen's film is a breathing and irrefutable record of the tremendous role played by our feathered friends in the checking of nature's destroyers. There are close-ups studies of destructive insects and their ravages upon orchards and gardens followed by striking views of birds at work as they garner pests and feed them to their young . . . robins and bluebirds with cut worms, cuckoos with tent caterpillars, crows and starlings with white grubs and June beetles. The film does not neglect the activities of the hawks and owls, shown in action as nature's rat traps; nor are the weed destroyers overlooked; nor the scavengers. Put this LOYALTY NIGHT lecture down as a must. Friday, April 27, Soldan High School 8 P.M.



ST. LOUIS BIRD CLUB BULLETIN

VOL. 14, No. 2

March, 1945

OFFICERS

President Wayne Short
1207 N. 7th St., Central 0631
Vice-President Luther Ely Smith
Bell Telephone Bldg., Garfield 0882
Secretary and Treasurer Ethel Wolfe
1607 Continental Bldg., Jefferson 7271

EDITORIAL STAFF

Bill Kelley, Editor

Linus Hoffmeister Nell Menke

EDITORIAL OFFICE

221 Parkhurst Terrace, Webster Groves (19)
Missouri

FEBRUARY LECTURE

The throng of over 1,000 people that crowded the St. Louis University Auditorium on February 3 was treated to a new and different kind of nature film. To say that Murl Deusing's "Bright Feathers" was appealing to our audience would be quite an understatement. Many felt that the lecture was the best of the season, and, considering the superlative quality of the preceding programs, it is noteworthy praise indeed. The Deusing film had an intimacy and vitality so often lacking in films of this type. Perhaps it was the Deusing children, Diane, Dorothy, Drusilla, and Donald, the contagion of whose youthful enthusiasm was carried to the audience in their explorations of woodlands, cherry orchards, farms, and daisy fields of lovely Door County Peninsula in Wisconsin. Perhaps it was Murl Deusing's highly amusing comments and conversational delivery. But whatever the reason, the pleasure of sharing an out-of-door adventure with a nature loving family was just what a snow-bound assembly needed to help tide over the winter months. The all-color motion picture stressed the more familiar birds . . . robin, bluebird, cedar waxwing, yellow warbler, and night-hawk to mention a few. Particularly outstanding were the shots of the wild flowers indigenous to the Ridges Flower Sanctuary. Certainly, the first scheduled Saturday night lecture in the history of the St. Louis Bird Club was a success in every way.

SPRING CENSUS

In keeping with the changed schedule of Bird Walks, the Annual Spring Census of the St. Louis Bird Club will be held on the last Sunday in April instead of in May as in former years. The Census will take place at Creve Coeur Lake starting at the foot of the concrete steps that lead from the Creve Coeur street-car stop. The time: 6:30 A.M. until about 10 A.M. on Sunday, April 29.

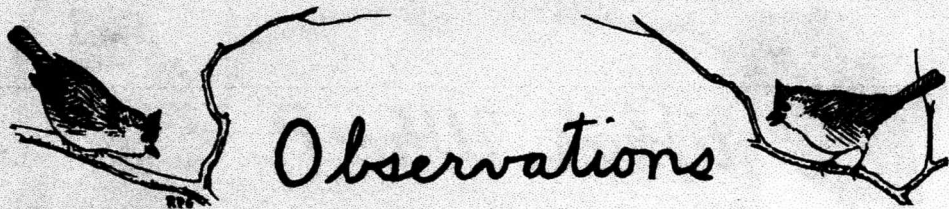
HOUSING SHORTAGE

Yes, you may think you know all about the housing shortage, but did you ever consider doing anything about it. Of course, we're referring to the shortage of available nesting sites within the confines of our city. The practice of removing dead limbs and doctoring up knot holes has eliminated many potential bird homes. Too, the ever increasing English sparrow and starling have complicated the situation by taking over the few remaining cavities. Many attractive birds, thus, have been driven from our city due to the absence of natural places to lay their eggs and rear their young.

To counter the general trend the Audubon Society began to advocate the building of suitable nesting-boxes. The practice has gained considerable usage and is beginning to show results. Good bird houses may be bought for little or much to suit the individual pocketbook. On the other hand, a satisfactory box is very easy to build and requires no particular skill. Excellent articles on the construction of bird houses are available at your local library, or you may purchase for five cents, "Home For Birds", Bulletin No. 1456 from Supt. of Documents, Washington, D. C.

There are several important considerations in the making and placing of boxes: a good bird house like a well-built home should provide ventilation, drainage, and sanitation for the tenants; in all except martin houses the opening should be several inches above the floor; in general, nesting-boxes should be erected on poles from six to thirty feet above the ground or fastened to the side of a tree where limbs do not interfere; three or four boxes per acre are ample; all boxes should be taken down and cleaned after nesting season.

Now is the time to place your boxes, for many birds will be home hunting soon.



April showers and chilly breezes will search in vain for the hardy April Bird Walkers that of yore haunted Forest Park paths and byways. This season we're going to expose ourselves to Old Man Weather during one of his more benevolent moods in the inauguration of the May Bird Walks. The May Walks promise the advantages of better weather, the migration peak, and increasing nesting activity. To be sure, the new foliage will make some identifications more difficult and may cause some aggravating moments, but, all in all, the year's walks should rank with the best. Surely, with the participation expected we'll be needing all the help we can muster in the way of leaders and assistants. We appeal to all the members with sufficient training to offer their services.

. . .

James Earl Comfort started the new year with a bang. He observed a Shufeldt's junco near Sullivan, Mo. in January. This unexpected visitor surely wandered far from its usual haunts of Oregon and Alberta. Shufeldt's junco is, perhaps, the most striking of the varied junco genus with a handsome black head and breast, mahogany brown back, white underparts, and pinkish brown sides.

SPRING COURSE

University College of Washington University is offering again this year a field course, "Natural History: Biology and Geology of the Local Area", on the eight Saturdays from April 7 to May 26. The instructor is Harold I. O'Byrne of the Education Section of the Missouri Conservation Commission. The course is a part of the educational program of Rockwoods Reservation, where the instructor is located. The course will be conducted outdoors as far as the weather permits and will embrace such topics as: Missouri geological history; identification, technique of collecting and preserving specimens, and interrelationship of animal and plant life in the St. Louis area; and an introduction to the principles of wildlife conservation. The course carries one unit of college credit; tuition is \$10.00. Further information may be obtained from Washington University or from Harold I. O'Byrne, Glencoe, Mo.

The Christmas Census was not officially scheduled by the St. Louis Bird Club this year because of transportation difficulties. Some of the Club's members, however, did participate in a census sponsored by the Webster Groves Nature Study Society on December 24. Sterling P. Jones has contributed the following succinct and informational record: "RANKEN, St. Louis County, Mo.—a tract between Valley Park and Eureka 6 miles long, 4 miles wide (access to river cut off by federal restrictions). Deciduous trees on Ozark hillslopes 40%, open valleys surrounding 3 long springfed creeks 40%, evergreen groves 10%, farmlands 10%. Dec. 24; 8:30 a.m. to 4:40 p.m. Cloudy dull gray sky nearly all day; wind 1 to 2 m.p.h., temp. 26 to 37 degrees F.; creeks thinly frozen, ground hard in forenoon, soft from midday on. 14 observers in 4 parties. Total hours, 12 afoot; total miles, 16 on foot.

Red-tailed hawk, 4; sparrow hawk, 3; killdeer, 1; flicker, 6; pileated woodpecker, 2; red-bellied woodpecker, 5; hairy woodpecker, 4; downy woodpecker, 8; blue jay, 12; crow, 14; chickadee, 26; tufted titmouse, 14; white-breasted nuthatch, 17; Carolina wren, 6; mockingbird, 1; bluebird, 26; golden-crowned kinglet, 2; cedar waxwing, 70; starling, 15; myrtle warbler, 6; English sparrow, 5; cardinal, 30; goldfinch, 2; slate-colored junco, 230; tree sparrow, 110; song sparrow, 5. Total, 26 species, 625 individuals.

Mrs. H. B. Comfort, J. Earl Comfort, A. W. Dreyer, Mrs. Susan Grumman, Mrs. Helen Hill, James Jackson, Mrs. Edith Long, Ken Niewoehner, Harold O'Byrne, Stuart O'Byrne, George Ravold, John Ravold, Richard Reichle, S. P. Jones, (Webster Groves Nature Study Society)."

. . .

In a recent account of a visit to the bird sanctuary on Lake Merritt in Oakland, California, WAVE Ethel Heuser writes, "It was wonderful to see pintails, canvasbacks, and bluebills so close you could reach out and touch them . . . the cause, feeding." A tramp around Lake Merritt in the California sunshine and a trip to Seal Rock near San Francisco rounded out a most enjoyable Sunday.



Who's Who?



Sydney Heckler, who has been living in Cherry Plain, New York for the past two years, visited St. Louis recently and attended the February Lecture. His many friends were indeed happy to see him. Sydney, for years one of our most loyal members, has maintained his membership even though he is unable to take a part in Club activities.

* * *

Charles M. Rice introduced the speaker, Murl Deusing, at our February lecture.

* * *

Ethel Heuser of the WAVES is now stationed at Oakland, California. Before going into the service, Ethel served on the Contact Committee, handling newspaper and radio contact.

* * *

Mrs. W. O. Jackson (formerly Iva Leonard) who has been living in Jefferson City since 1943 asks to be enrolled again as a member of the St. Louis Bird Club. While too far away to enjoy the lecture programs, Mrs. Jackson writes that she would like to keep up with what is going on in the Club. This is a welcome message and we send our greetings to Mrs. Jackson.

* * *

Tillie Hollman, one of our active and helpful members has been spending the winter in Portland, Maine.

We are pleased to record the following additions to and changes in the Bird Club membership from January 1st to February 15th: New Sustaining Members: Dr. A. M. Adam, A. Shapleigh Boyd, Jr., Frank J. Erb, Mrs. R. Harvey, Earl H. Hath, Mrs. M. Martine, Mrs. Horatio Potter. Changed from Active to Sustaining: Cordelia Ahrens, Gerald B. O'Reilly. New Active Members: Helen Anderlan, John Anderlan, Mrs. J. Anderlan, Mrs. C. F. Barchi, Henry C. Bartels, Mrs. H. C. Bartels, Mrs. John R. Bircher, Mrs. F. J. Bullivant, Julia Cady, Mrs. J. M. Chavez, G. W. Disher, Mrs. G. W. Disher, Laverne E. Dudeck, Shirley A. Dudeck, Ethel C. Ehrhard, Mrs. Anna P. Galt, Charles F. Galt, Mrs. George B. Gannett, Carol Gerken, Wm. T. Heithaus, Velma Huseman, Mrs. W. O. Jackson, Margaret R. Kennedy, Miss R. Kiel, Cathryn Ann Kiewitt, Mrs. Louis H. Koch, Mabel L. Mack, Mrs. J. Scott MacNutt, Mrs. F. McClurken, Martin McClurken, Florence McKenna, Leonard Meiners, Donald Morgan, Henry H. Mudd, Edwin Neier, Robert Phillips, Frank E. Proctor, Mrs. Frank E. Proctor, Wm. H. Righter, Hulda E. Rudolph, Mrs. Max D. Schwarz, Camilla T. Sharp, Edna Stegner, Katherine Steinkrueger, Treas., Magnolia Garden Club, Francis Steinmann, Ralph L. Stelzleni, Anita A. Stoffel, Henry Tacke, Mrs. T. H. Thatcher, Mrs. Rosalie Thomasson, Jane Thuman, Bess Untneker, Rose A. Walker, Miss H. Wessbecher, Mrs. Tyrell Williams and Ruth Ziegler.

TO THE BIRD CLUB

BEST WISHES

FROM PURINA DOG CHOW

Cardinal Brand

WILD BIRD FOOD

Feed the wild birds and keep them around all winter to amuse and cheer you.

Feed them Cardinal Brand **Wild Bird Food**, a specially prepared mixture of nourishing seeds, grains and nut meats.

5 lbs., 75c 25 lbs., \$2.50

PALMER SEED CO.

617 N. Broadway